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Volume 1, Issue 1

The official newsletter for
Rocks and Susquehanna
State Parks

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Includes:

- Volunteer Information
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- Fun Stories

Maryland Park Service



Rocks and Susquehanna

Spring into Summer at the Parks

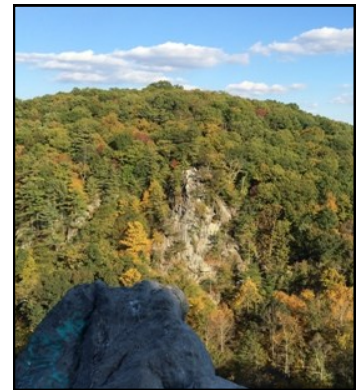
Are you tired of being stuck in an office? Maybe the kids are developing too much tunnel vision from TV and video games? Perhaps you are already an avid outdoorsman and are just looking to expand your horizons? If any of these apply to you, you have come to the right place! Here at Rocks and Susquehanna State Parks there are a multitude of activities at no to low cost that you can do individually, or as a family.

More than just a "walk in the park," our 14 trails range from easy to difficult. All of them are pet friendly, so don't forget to bring Buster

along for the ride, just remember his leash! There are even designated trails for equestrians at Susquehanna. Also in Susquehanna, you will see award-winning champion trees like the White Oak and American Beech. Over at Rocks, see the incredible view from the King and Queen Seat!

Also on these trails, expect to see a range of wildlife like turkey, deer, herons, and bald eagles that like to call the parks home.

While you're there, break out the fishing rod! All along Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River, several species of



sporting fish that are ready to take the bait. Bring a kayak, haul your boat to our ramp, visit our pond at the Deer Creek Picnic Area, or wade at your own risk along the shoreline. Trout are stocked in the creek, and fish that come naturally include perch, bluegill, catfish, and carp — all common catches

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Maryland Conservation Corps

The Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) is a part of Americorps, which is a domestic volunteer service program for America. Since 1984, crews have been assets to their parks, providing extra labor and initiative for projects.

Currently, there are seven crews working in Maryland State Parks, including one at Susquehanna. Members hail from Maryland, Michigan,

Illinois, Idaho.

During their ten-month contract, the Susquehanna crew has constructed and put-up signs, done extensive trail maintenance, emergency snow removal, and more. They have gained valuable skills by participating in Emergency Medical Responder and other basic trainings. During the spring

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Park Manager's Welcome

Whether you are planning your first visit to Susquehanna State Park or you are a longtime visitor, the staff and I would like to welcome you. We feel this is a very special place and hope you will agree.

These parks offer a little something for everyone. With 14 miles of trails, and more than 3000 acres, nature lovers have plenty of room to explore. We are a popular destination for wildflower and birding enthusiasts and anglers often come to fish the mighty Susquehanna River. Give

us a call if you would like to learn more about peak times.

If local history is more to your speed, the working gristmill and surrounding historic buildings will be a must see. It is a great experience for kids too.

We pride ourselves with our family friendly atmosphere. If there is anything we can do to help you plan your visit, or assist you while you are here, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hangen
Park Manager

...Spring into Summer Continued

throughout the warm seasons.

Well-known for its campground, Susquehanna offers sites to pitch a tent with convenient electric sites. Feel like packing light? We also have cabins! Each of our loops has their own comfort stations with hot showers! With adventuring around it sure can work up an appetite, we recommend that you pack some s'mores to help you unwind! We encourage our visitors to view the park at its full capacity, which we believe takes more than a day, so check out our pricing online, or on page 4 of this newsletter.

Step into Steppingstone

Step back in time at this enchanting working historic farm.

Steppingstone farm is a living history museum that has activities

for the whole family. There is a blacksmith shop, a cannery, and much more! Stop by the office Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for more information.

Although the land is owned by Susquehanna State Park, it is administered by the private non-profit group dedicated to preserving and demonstrating the rural arts and crafts of the 1880-1920 period in Harford County. Read more about Steppingstone by visiting steppingstonemuseum.org.



Historic Area Happenings

Well-known for the Rock Run Historic Area, Susquehanna is brimming with history. There is the gristmill, which has been restored to working condition. Stop by this summer to see how corn gets turned into cornmeal! There is also the beautifully restored Carter-Archer Mansion, with a dynamic past reaching back to 1804. Don't forget about the historic purple trail with interpretive signs. It is a short trail, but it is loaded with fun information!



Museum Grounds Hours: 9 a.m. to sunset every day.

Museum Buildings & Store: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Sat & Sun, May-September.

Mansion Hours: Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Day-Labor Day.

Mill Hours: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Day-Labor Day.

Geocaching: Fun for the Whole Family

Geocaching has soared in popularity in the last few years, but what exactly is it?

What is geocaching?

According to geocaching.com, it is "a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of coordinates and attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location." It is a great way to get to know your surroundings and explore places you might not go to otherwise. And at the end, there is a reward when you find the container. Sometimes it is a notepad where you record your name and when you found it, other time there are small prizes, such as stickers or toys.

How is our park involved? Rocks

and Susquehanna Stat Parks (and other parks) have authorized geocaches hidden near our trails. Rangers have placed some, park patrons have placed others, but all have to be approved by the Department of Natural Resources. If you find an unauthorized or missing geocache, please report it to the park. We keep track of geocaches because we want them to be safe, fun, and sustainable.

How can you get involved?

This is the easy part! You don't need a specialized GPS system, although they are slightly more



An official Geocache Container



accurate. You just need a smartphone. There are many apps and websites dedicated to geocaching. They are user friendly and can help to guide beginners. mdgps.org is exclusively dedicated to geocaching in Maryland, and www.letterboxing.org/lbna/MD-Policy.pdf is a great guide to rules within Maryland State Parks.

Junior Rangers

Do you want your child to learn more about the outdoors? Then Junior Rangers is for you! It is a multi-disciplined outdoor education program for youth aged 4-13. They are divided into groups by age, and programs are based on age groups. Susquehanna will offer a summer program in August. At the end of the program, the Junior Rangers will have a graduation ceremony and receive badges. There are five themes that the program focuses on: Parks and Park Rangers, Plants and Animals, Planet Earth, Conservation, and People. Junior Rangers is a great way to get children outside and learning about nature, while having fun! For more information, email anna.koziarski@maryland.gov or call 410-557-7994.



...MCC Continued

they host programs such as Junior Rangers. In the summer, crews help coordinate the Conservations Jobs Corps program, which works in partnership with community youth organizations to provide conservation service opportunities for youth in Maryland State Parks.

From historic interpretation to wildlife habitat restoration crews are here to help ideas become reality. Learn more at dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/mcc.aspx



Hunting and Fishing

Hunting season is right around the corner. Last season showed a three percent decline in deer harvests across the state, which biologists attribute to reduced populations and unseasonably warm weather.

The process for registering to hunt at both Rocks and Susquehanna will remain unchanged for the 2016-17 season. **Call the park office at 410-557-7994 for hunting information at either park.**

Spring is the best time for fishing. Deer creek in Rocks State Park was stocked between March 6th and 26th, followed by two more in April and May.

The shad run is another fishy event in spring. Typically in mid to late April, this large migration of fish attracted fishermen and wildlife enthusiasts alike. Regardless if you come to catch the fish or watch them, it's the time of year to pull up your waders and head out to Susquehanna for a day on the creek.

For more information on fishing, or to get your 2016 license, visit eregulations.com/maryland/fishing

Why Do We Close Trails?

Imagine you're on a hike during a clear day, when you come to your favorite shortcut, only to find a fence blocking it off with directions to a reroute. Why would the park close such a popular path? Trails are closed for multiple, related reasons. Sometimes shortcuts or social trails (trails not maintained or marked by the park) are unsustainable and/or dangerous. Even though it may be quicker to get from point A to point B, we did not build the trail there because it would disturb the landscape, or it would be unsafe in some way. So next time you are on our trails, please remember that we put them in a specific place for a reason!



Visit the Susquehanna Campground

The Susquehanna State Park campground contains two loops with a total of 69 sites, six of which have electric hook-ups, and six camper cabins. Each loop has its own comfort station with hot showers.

If you are camping *without* a reservation, please check the reservation board at the entrance for available sites **BEFORE** you set up camp.

For camping reservations,
call 1-888-432-2267.

reservations.dnr.state.md.us

Rules and Reservations:

- The campground is open April through October
- Alcohol is not permitted
- Pets are welcome, except in or around the cabins, and must be leashed at all times
- Campsite: \$27 + service charge*/night (Fri-Sat)
- Campsites w electric: \$33 + service charge*/night (Fri-Sat)
- Camper cabin: \$56 + service charge*/night (Fri-Sat)
- Campsite: \$26 + service charge*/night (Sun-Thur)
- Campsites w electric: \$32 + service charge*/night (Sun-Thur)
- Camper cabin: \$55 + service charge*/night (Sun-Thur)
- *Prices Reduced for Residents and Golden Age Patrons Sunday through Thursdays (excluding holidays).

Staff Spotlight: **Ranger Lindley Campbell**

How long have you been a ranger?

I have been a ranger with the Maryland Park Service for five years, the last two of which have been at Rocks and Susquehanna

How did you decide you wanted to be a ranger?

Growing up, I was always interested in science. After graduating college, I spent a summer working with the Conservation Jobs Corps. I worked with a crew of young people on projects around the park. We planted trees, painted, cleaned up litter and did some basic construction. Then I discovered the Maryland Conservation Corps, and joined a crew at Gunpowder Falls State Park. Through this program, I helped maintain trail systems, removed invasive species and led programs about the environment, among many other experiences. Through this journey, I realized this is what I want to do.

What is your favorite part of being a ranger?

My favorite part of being a ranger is getting out into the parks, and being a liaison between our park visitors and Maryland's natural resources. So many of Maryland's special places are conserved within park boundaries. Protecting these natural areas is important to ecosystem balance, and it is important for us as humans to keep these places safe. I enjoy sharing these places with our park visitors, while encouraging people to enjoy with little impact. Also, I love planting trees and anytime I get to use a chainsaw!

Do you have a favorite part of Rocks?

The view from the King and Queen seat.

Finally, do you have any tips for park visitors?

Have fun, stay safe, and enjoy the fresh air! Leave nature as you find it, so others can have the same cool experiences.

#HealthyParksHealthyPeople

Well-known for extensive hiking and biking trails, Susquehanna is a great place for getting in shape. Some doctors have even begun writing "prescriptions" for their patients to get outdoors. Many scientific studies have credited outdoor activities with improved mental and physical health. To support this idea, Maryland State Parks have begun a new initiative called Healthy Parks Healthy People. How are we implementing this at our parks? Join us every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Susquehanna State Park starting July 6th. We will be exploring different trails in the park and getting healthy in the process! All fitness levels are welcome! Additionally, our trails are open during normal park hours for independent fitness hikes and trail running. Snap a picture on your hike or run and post it with hashtag **#healthyparkshealthypeople!**

Call the park office 410-557-7994 for more information.

Rocks Renovations this Winter

Even though things quiet down during the winter at Rocks, there is still a lot going on! It is when park staff has the time to make renovations on the park, so patrons can better enjoy it in the warmer months.

This past fall, Rocks staff organized a work group to re-roof the pavilion at Wilson's picnic area. Park staff from Elk Neck and Patapsco Valley state parks participated, bringing valuable knowledge and learning new skills along the way. Collaborating on the project allowed for it to get done in a timely fashion, and for ideas to be transferred. The maintenance staff also renovated the bathrooms at Hill's Grove Picnic area.

Plans are presently underway to replace the half-century old restroom at Rock Ridge. Stay tuned for details!

ROCKS AND SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARKS

3318Rocks Chrome Hill Road

Jarrettsville, MD 21084

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands

Interested in Volunteering?

Susquehanna hosts a volunteer round-up on the first Saturday of most months. Examples of past volunteer projects include closing unsustainable trails and cleaning up the campground in preparation for the winter. Volunteering at Susquehanna is a great way to get outside and to foster community!

For General Volunteer Coordinating Information call:

410-557-7994

For Susquehanna contact:

Ranger Lindley Campbell

lindley.campbell@maryland.gov

For Rocks contact:

Ranger Nikki Brooks-Burnett

nikki.brooks-burnett@maryland.gov

If you have any comments or would like to make recommendations about services provided by Rocks and Susquehanna State Park, please email us as:

susquehanna.statepark@maryland.gov.

The mission of the Maryland Park Service is to manage the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to provide for wise stewardship and enjoyment by people.

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Larry Hogan, Governor

Mark Belton, Secretary of Natural Resources

